Subject: Confederate half dollar of 1861
-- restrikes.

Pratt, Joseph Hyde, Dr.
[Chapel Hill, NC]

1920

Front tab, original folder

Pratt, Dr Joseph Hyde,

1920

April 22nd, 1920.

Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt,
Chapel Hill,
North Carolina.

My dear Sir:-

Our Museum is preparing to publish all the information available in regard to the Confederate half dollar of 1861, and the numerous restrikes of this piece made from the original die in New York City some twenty-five or thirty years ago. We have in the Museum one of the four original pieces. We know the present location of another one of these, and we have been informed that you have a third in your possession. Would it be asking too much of you to send us the history of your piece, a photograph of it if possible, its weight in grains, and a discription especially of the milling on the edge? This latter is quite important as the milling varies considerably, sometimes quite clear cut and sometimes with the appearance of having been flattened.

I realize that this request may put you to considerable inconvenience, but it seems important to us that a record of this extremely interesting and historical piece should be prepared which might bring together all the scattered information in regard to it which is now available, but which is unfortunately so distributed in numerous publications that it is not easy for a student to get it all together.

Hoping to hear from you, I am,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Curator.

JOSEPH HYDE PRATT, PH.D.
STATE GEOLOGIST
MISS H. M. BERRY
SECRETARY

NORTH CAROLINA GEOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC SURVEY
CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

April 26, 1920

Mr. Arthur C. Wyman, Asst. to Curator
The American Numismatic Society
Broadway, Between 155th and 156th Sts
New York

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of April 22nd:

I am in the hospital at the present time, but hope to be able to return home within the next week or ten days. The coin is in a deposit box in the bank and just as soon as I can get it out I will be glad to get up the information you desire. The Curator of the Numismatic Society told me when he examined my coin that it is one of the original four.

Yours very truly,

Joseph Hyde Pratt

JHP:q

May 3rd, 1920.

Mr. Joseph Hyde Pratt,
Chapel Hill,
North Carolina.

My dear Sir:-

I have your letter of April 26th and wish to thank you very much for your kindness in offering to send me the information for which I asked. I trust that you will not be confined for long to the hospital. Of course, I shall be glad to receive the information as soon as convenient, but do not wish you to make any undue effort to get it to me as there is plenty of time. I notice in your letter that you speak of the "Curator of the Numismatic Society as having pronounced your coin one of the original four". May I ask to what Society this refers? Mr. Wood, who is the Curator of the museum of our Society, informs me that he has not seen your piece.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.